

still a question for the House how and when and under what procedure it shall be done  
\* \* \*

Speaker Gillett's ruling is fully recorded in Cannon's Precedents, at volume 6, section 48.

Applying the precedent of 1921 and the others just cited, the Chair holds that the resolution offered by the gentleman from Texas does not affect "the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, [or] the integrity of its proceedings" within the meaning of clause 1 of rule IX. Rather, it proposes to effect a special order of business for the House—deeming it to have passed two legislative measures—as an antidote for the alleged discredit of previous inaction thereon. The resolution does not constitute a question of privilege under rule IX.

To rule that a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX may be raised by allegations of perceived discredit brought upon the House by legislative action or inaction, would permit any Member to allege an impact on the dignity of the House based upon virtually any legislative action or inaction.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the journal stands approved.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BARTLETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE BORDER PATROL IN FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House on a problem we are having in Florida and we are having all across the Nation. Last evening we had a chance to hear the President deliver his speech on the future of America. One of the things he emphasized was on changing and enforcing immigration procedures in our country.

It is ironic that this past week the Immigration and Naturalization Service announced that it was taking eight

Border Patrol agents from Florida and moving them to the southwest border of the United States. Clearly I know that we are having extraordinary problems on the borders of Mexico, but Florida also is being inundated by illegal immigrants.

What has happened with our Border Patrol has been a diminishing from 85 agents in 1988 to half that strength of 42 agents today, after these agents are detailed to the southwest border. In my home district, the Palm Beach Border Patrol Office will shrink to just three agents and one supervisor who are responsible for covering eight counties and 120 miles of coastline. At the same time, the number of Border Patrol and Coast Guard interceptions of Cubans and Haitians for the first 2 months of 1996 fiscal year, 1,248 interceptions, is almost as high as the total number of interceptions for the entire 1995 fiscal year, which totaled 1,789 interceptions—1,248 in 2 months, 1,789 during the whole fiscal year of 1995.

Just yesterday Border Patrol agents arrested eight illegals who were working at a school construction site in West Palm Beach, FL. The total number of criminal alien apprehensions in the Miami sector last year totaled 1,857 people, criminal alien apprehensions in the Miami sector. These statistics clearly demonstrate the critical need for a stronger Border Patrol force in Florida, so it amazes me that the INS apparently ignores this data making policy decisions.

I fully support a strong Border Patrol force for the entire United States, but not by slashing the number of Florida agents. I had a chance to go out with the gentleman from California, Mr. GALLEGLY, and others, the gentleman from California, DUKE CUNNINGHAM, and survey the border of Mexico. I understand their problem. I wholeheartedly support strengthening our enforcement on the border. However, Florida, much like California, Texas, and Arizona, has a similar problem. It is simply insane to remove agents from a State like Florida which continues to be strained by illegal immigration, insane.

Ironically, the day after the announcement to detail Florida agents, the Center for Immigration Studies released a new report stating that Florida remains the third largest recipient of illegal immigrants, with one of nine illegal immigrants in the United States residing in Florida. In fact, the report suggests that the illegal immigrant population in our State could be as high as 450,000 today. The State of Florida estimates that in 1993 alone, State and local governments have spent around \$884 million on undocumented aliens.

In addition, there are approximately 5,504 criminal aliens in State correction facilities on any given day, costing Florida taxpayers on average \$14,000 per inmate annually, 5,504 illegals in our State prison system, 5,504 beds that could be made available

for rapists, murderers, and drug dealers. The INS decision to cut Florida Border Patrol agents further erodes our already limited resources and threatens the security of our borders.

In fact, by INS taking eight agents out of Florida, they have in fact said "Welcome, one and all. Come to the State, because we are no longer enforcing the laws of this land." The action sends the wrong message to illegal immigrants, and it is simply not in the best interests of the State of Florida nor of the United States of America.

If, Mr. Speaker, the President is serious about changing the way Government operates in Washington, if we are in fact talking about the State of the Union of this country, the State of the Union of this country, then one of our most important challenges is to protect and secure our borders from illegal entry.

I welcome people to this country. My grandmother came from Poland. She had a sponsored job waiting and a clean bill of health. I want people who come to this country with a clear indication of wanting to support the values we hold dear. I commend you, Mr. President, for your speech. I commend the enthusiasm by which you lead this country. I urge you and I urge our leadership to sit down and work the details out of all the problems we face, but if we are in fact to have a safe and free Nation, we must protect ourselves from illegal immigration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, this morning during my 1-minute speech, I chastised the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, for not telling exactly the truth this morning on one of the talk show programs when he was being interviewed